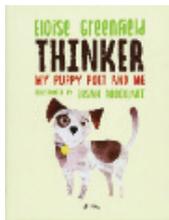


Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me

Poems by Eloise Greenfield Illustrated by Ehsan Abdollahi
Tiny Owl £9.99
ISBN: 978-1910328330

Thinker is no ordinary puppet, he's a poet. Luckily enough, so is his owner, Jace. These deceptively simple poems follow Thinker and Jace as they together rhyme their way across the day, although Thinker is at first forbidden from revealing his secret to the world – "Watch, think, bark... / No poems. No talk / But I am sad. Who am I, if I'm / not myself?" Ehsan Abdollahi's colourful illustrations are terrific, providing an exuberant companion to these generous and lively poems.

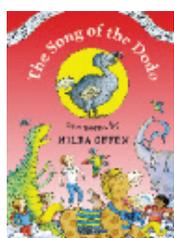


in a whisper: no force, just a Why? / and a Why? and a Why / Not?" This is an imaginative, urgent and beautifully crafted collection.

The Book of Clouds

Poems by Juris Kronbergs Illustrated by Anete Melece
Translated by Mara Rozitis and Richard O'Brien
Emma Press £12.00
ISBN: 978-1910139141

This deliciously strange collection from Latvian writer, Juris Kronbergs, is a delight, examining the world of clouds from just about every angle imaginable - from the whimsical to the scientific to the anarchic. We learn what clouds eat ("pie-in-the-sky"), what clouds dream of ("hot yellow suns"), and what happens when a cloud dies ("it never does / winds scatter it across the sky / and later it / returns / in a new place"). With inventive illustrations by Anete Melece, The Book of Clouds is beautifully produced and also includes space for readers to create their very own cloud diary.



The Song of the Dodo

Poems and illustrations by Hilda Offen
Troika £7.99
ISBN: 978-1909991750

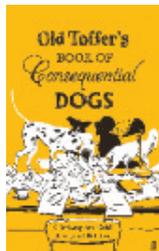
The Song of the Dodo is, at once, mischievous, tender and illuminating. Full of humour and compassion, these poems range from playful accounts of trampolines and pantomime horses, informative explorations of fossils, Celtic torcs and

graphene, and moving, lyrical pieces, such as 'An Old Photo' which considers the backstory of a starchy Victorian portrait. Hilda Offen writes with a special care, both in her delicate use of language and in her compassionate view of the world. The collection is further enhanced by the author's appealing and characterful line drawings.

Old Toffer's Book of Consequential Dogs

Poems by Christopher Reid Drawings by Elliot Elam
Faber & Faber £14.99
ISBN: 978-0571334094

This splendid follow up to the celebrated *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* is a treat. T.S. Eliot had himself planned to write a book of 'consequential dogs' (a phrase apparently coined by the poet's driver) but never quite found the time to write it. Christopher Reid here takes up the challenge with the utmost aplomb. Clever, witty and with a seemingly effortless mastery of numerous poetic forms, these poems fizz off the page, aided by excellent illustrations from Elliot Elam. Readers are introduced to such fine characters as Lola the circus dog, Flo the philosophical fox hound and Frazzlespratt the dog who would really rather be a cat.

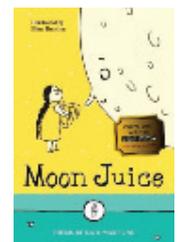


Everything All at Once

Poems by Steven Camden
Macmillan £6.99
ISBN: 978-1509880034

Steve Camden, aka Polarbear, has long been a leading light of the spoken word scene and this excellent collection itches to be read aloud. He unpicks the knotty experience of being at secondary school, from first day jitters to the intricacies of teenage relationships and the pressure of exams. 'Dear Mum, BTEC', a standout poem, eloquently celebrates vocational education. Steve Camden has a powerful knack for expressing the intense emotions of teenage life, eloquently capturing the 'everything all at once' of school – "It's a war zone. It's a haven. It's a stage full of bright lights."

Kate Wakeling is a poet and musicologist. She was the winner of the CLIPPA 2017 for *Moon Juice*, her first poetry collection for children. Her poetry has appeared in magazines and anthologies including *Oxford Poetry*, *The Guardian* and *The Forward Book of Poetry 2016*. Kate is writer-in-residence with Aurora Orchestra. Her scripts and stories for family audiences have featured at the Melbourne Festival, the bOing! Festival and on BBC Radio 3.



Dark Sky Park: Poems from the Edge of Nature

Poems by Philip Gross Illustrated by Jesse Hodgson
Otter-Barry £6.99
ISBN: 978-1910959886

The poems in this dazzling new collection from Philip Gross are as rare, distinct and mesmerising as the creatures and landscapes he explores here. By turns witty and elegiac, his poems gaze in fierce wonder at the worlds of snow leopards, tardigrades and glacier worms, while also starkly challenging humankind's cruelty and greed. 'The Toughest Thing You Never

Noticed' describes the irrepressible drive of ivy to curl its way through the world – "they're like brilliant questions / put to governments or bullies /



A Kid in My Class

Written by Rachel Rooney Illustrated by Chris Riddell
Otter-Barry £10.99
ISBN: 978-1910959879

Complemented by Chris Riddell's amazing illustrations, each well-crafted poem is a glimpse of school life that can be sad, funny or thought-provoking. Children and adults will identify with the 'kids' in the poems or know someone who fits the bill. All school life is here! These poems will both bring back memories, and introduce talking points for discussion about tricky subjects, allowing children to talk about things that may be puzzling or worrying them.

Debbie Wiggett